FDI policy for media and broadcasting sector

1841. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether interlinking of FDI policy for media and broadcasting sector has been considered by Government;

(b) if so, whether Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has pointed out that there should be an interlinking FDI policy across news, entertainment, TV, cable, newspapers, magazines, radio, etc.;

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

(d) the changes that are being considered by Government and by when these are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in its recommendations on the licencing issues relating to the Second Phase of Private F.M. Radio Broadcasting, has recommended that the FDI policy should be reviewed along with the policies in other segments of the media sector. TRAI has made a similar recommendation for cable TV and DTH in the recommendations on "Issues relating to Broadcasting and Distribution of TV channels". No decision has been taken, as yet, in the matter and no time-frame can be indicated for final decision at this juncture.

Voodooism and superstition on TV channels

1842. DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(A) whether some TV channels are telecasting programmes which encourage voodooism and superstition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government are taking to ban such programmes?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.